

## RARE SILVER FOXES

Two New Brunswick Farms Started With Pair, Now Raise Thousands.

RANCHES WIRE CLOSED

Animals Like to Play and Do Not Mind the Cold-est Weather.

OFTEN NURSED BY CATS

Farming Not Always Successful as Disease Carries Off Many Young.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

MONCTON, N. B., Sept. 9.—Canada is the home of the aristocratic black and silver fox, the breeding of these regal little animals having become an alluring and lucrative industry in various parts of this country.

It is very doubtful if California had anything on fox ranching when, in '49, the blast of her siren call resounded from coast to coast, and men became gold mad in their frenzy to "get rich quick."

The province of New Brunswick claims the honor of possessing the largest fox ranch in the world. This ranch is situated on the Little River, 15 miles from the city of Moncton. In 1913 the Colpitts brothers—who then were farmers living in a sparsely settled agricultural district—saw great possibilities in fox ranching and used to their advantage knowledge of the habits of wild animals acquired in hunting and trapping in earlier days.

There was a modest venture of a single pair of foxes, while to-day they are the proud possessors of more than one hundred and fifty animals, of which some 600, thus placing this ranch as the largest single ranch in the world. It may be of interest to follow the evolution and workings of this ranch.

Besides the main Colpitts ranch, the Little River Valley is dotted with smaller ranches, in all of which they have an interest. The largest of these smaller ranches is the Anglo-American, with about 300 foxes. All the foxes in these ranches are of the silver black strain and nearly all of them from the original Colpitts pair. Foxes breed but once a year, repeated breeding being frequent breeding being not well authenticated. Litters of five, six and even seven pups are not uncommon, although the usual number is four and five.

Ranches Inclosed in Wire.

The modern fox ranch at a distance resembles a war time entanglement, being built entirely of heavy wire netting, seven feet high, with an overhang to prevent the foxes from making their escape into the open or from getting from one pen to another. Formerly the ranches were inclosed by a board fence with wire inside to prevent the foxes from burrowing holes and thus making their escape. The idea was to keep the foxes from view because of their timid and suspicious nature.

The best ranches, however, have discarded the high board fence and visitors are allowed not only to see from the side but to enter the pens, and to enter the pens right among the foxes. The Colpitts ranch covers several acres, the great inclosure being divided into hundreds of pens, each provided with a wooden box for shelter and a breeding pen. The foxes like the open and plays and runs about, climbing the wire netting and otherwise displaying himself, except in hot and wet weather, when he seeks shelter. They do not mind the cold and with the temperature below zero will remain out in the open without the slightest sign of discomfort. As a matter of fact they appear to enjoy the extreme cold.

Care of Mother Foxes.

It is only in the mating and pupping season that the foxes are secluded and outsiders barred from the ranches. Dr. E. A. Randall of Truro, Nova Scotia, an old fox farmer, says: "After foxes have mated and have been separated the ranchman makes daily visits to the female pen, opens it every day and shuts her in the house every night. She becomes accustomed to these visits and shows no fear of the ranchman's presence. Pups are due in 51 or 53 days after mating. When the pups have arrived the female is kept confined in the breeding pen for three days, at the end of which time she becomes attached to them and does not want to carry her pups out."

"If for any reason the pups are not thriving the female is examined and if her milk has dried up, which sometimes happens, the pups are taken away and reared by cats, who do not in the slightest object to the strange little 'kittens.' At the end of the eighth week the pups are taken from the mother and placed in the pen by themselves, to be fed sparingly of food, but when six months old they will be taking more food than the old foxes."

"The feeding of the foxes is a very interesting and very essential part of their care. The foxes do not rank high in an epicurean sense. He is not at all fastidious as to the quality of his food but it is regarded as essential to the health of the fox animals that they should have variety. In some cases horse meat is fed but beef is preferred. The meat of rabbits is regarded as a delicacy and the ranchers buy up all that can be obtained."

The Colpitts ranch last winter paid out more than \$6,000 for rabbits reared in this province, and also imported several carloads from the West, and part of the fox ration is a coarse bread made of cornmeal or flour and bran, with a generous supply of fat. The refuse scraps from the biscuit factories are rare delicacies and come in large quantities in generous quantities. The big Colpitts ranch takes the milk of forty cows morning and night.

By Disease 10 Per Cent.

The foxes from the best ranches are registered with the department of agriculture. Of course registration is no certain guaranty of value, but no animal can obtain advanced registration unless it comes up to a certain standard, which includes pedigree, formation and everything else that goes for breeding and excellence. Not all who go into the fox ranching business are successful. The fox is subject to many diseases, and once these get a foothold it is difficult to eradicate them. Worms are one of the principal causes of mortality, and the loss of 10 per cent. of the pups is considered a fair average. Instances are known of ranches being entirely wiped out by disease. As a precautionary measure advanced registration unless ranches dip their foxes twice a year into a creolin solution.

It is rather painful to impart this

## YOUNG CHINESE EMPEROR LONGS TO VISIT EUROPE

Imperial Household Trying to Keep Suen Tong at Home, but Youth Threatens to Solicit Means in Foreign Quarter and Counselors Yield.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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New York Herald Bureau.

Suen Tong, China's youthful emperor, now 13 years old, wants to cut off his queue and embark upon adventurous seas for Europe.

The idea is ascribed to the young emperor's English teacher, who, during the last three years, has inspired a strange affection in the Manchurian boy for the habits, history and geography of Europe.

This surviving action of a long line is said to be so conversant with the history of the late war that he can design maps showing the important battle lines of each campaign. His counselors report that they have not been able to prevail against the stout determination in the royal heart, and they are considering an appeal to the republican Government for special funds to finance a journey around the world.

For years Suen Tong was lost to the sight of the exterior world, but rumors of his projected tour of newer civilizations have reached a correspondent of the French press, who is a personal friend of Suen's tutor, Tchong Pao-cheng.

Minneapolis, Missouri, South Dakota, Oregon, Texas and Washington.

The United States Bureau of Commerce is engaged in the fur industry in Alaska, having taken over the work in connection with the Pribilof Islands in 1911, where blue fox herds are maintained at the public expense and skins have been sold to the value of over half a million dollars. A cash payment of \$5 is also made to the natives for each fox skin taken for the market. In Alaska the fox is fed on the refuse from seal killings, which is especially preserved for them, the natives performing the work in return for fuel, food, clothing and other necessities furnished by the Government. Probably no State in the Union has had a more progressive growth in fur ranching than New York.

The climate in the northern part of this State is said to be admirably adapted for the raising of good fur and pelts taken from the foxes are said to bring good prices.

155 Fox Farms in Canada.

Hence the fur farms, and for farming official statistics show that there are 794 fur farms in Canada, of which 758 are fox, 12 mink, 9 raccoon, 2 martens, 2 skunk, 2 karakul sheep, 3 beaver, 3 muskrat. The increase in the number of farms over 1920 is 206. The number of animals on these farms is 23,435, valued at \$1,775,000, as compared with 16,529 animals valued at \$4,722,000 in the previous year. There are hundreds of small ranches which are not included in the enumeration. In the two fox breeders' associations in Canada and two in the United States, the Canadian associations are the Silver Fox Breeders' Association of Ontario and the Canadian Silver Fox Breeders.

Foxes in the wild state form a colony and live together if not disturbed. The old couple remain at the home burrow year after year if food conditions hold out and will burrow dozens of holes in the same hillside. The young ones dropped in March will set out for themselves in October and find a burrow of their own. When the proper season comes they seek a mate. If the male finds a female burrow during the mating season and takes a fancy to her he will hunt and carry presents of rabbits, which he places at the entrance of the burrow. If she accepts his gifts they mate, if not he carries them away again.

After the little ones are born the female remains at home and the male spends his time hunting for food, as well as to watch her. He will starve himself if necessary to feed his mate and young ones. A good male will examine all food and if he gets a dainty morsel will carry it to the entrance of the burrow while the female is nursing the young and call her out and give it to her. Many fathers can take a lesson from the fox in providing for his family and yet many ranches separate male and female after mating season.

In the United States are the American Fox Breeders' Association of Boston and the National Silver Fox Breeders' Association of Muskogee.

There are four farms of different kinds in all the provinces of Canada. States reporting ranches are New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas.

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## NEW LABOR PARTY EMERGING IN ITALY

Split in Forces Once Dominated by Socialists and Headed for Revolt.

FACIST REACTION LESS

Unions Resent Dictation and Clamor to Reenter Political Power.

UNDER D'ANNUNZIO LEAD

To Sever Relations With Reds and Unite Workers in One Body.

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Rome, Sept. 2.

A series of significant events of last few days point the way to the restoration of social peace in Italy through the formation of a labor party which will bring together the forces which have been split and the country with their bloody rivalry.

These forces were two years ago dominated by the Socialist party, and headed for Moscow and revolution. In the last year or so they have been split and a large portion, in the full tide of reaction, have engaged themselves in fighting the steadily diminishing number of revolutionists. The remaining of these forces, which is not as fantastically impossible as it seems, would signal the beginning of post-war reconstruction in Italy, postponing first by the revolution fever and then by the Fascist reaction.

What is happening reduced itself to this: The labor unions are beginning to clamor for freedom from Socialist domination and for a reentry into political power under the moral leadership of Gabriele d'Annunzio. And the leaders, Fascist, Socialist, Catholic and syndicalist.

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